

The Brookings Institution



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Visiting Scholar Programs

July 13, 1982

Dear Harry:

As you requested, I am writing about the proposal we discussed by telephone.

Under it, I would undertake to examine how the Agency, through its Estimates and otherwise, has assisted incoming Presidents and administrations in formulating their assessments of the purposes and policies of the Soviet Union over the last 30 to 35 years. In doing the study, I would need access to Estimates and other relevant materials of the Agency which would shed light on the subject.

The product would be a short report to you of my conclusions as to the role of the Agency in this respect over the years, possibly with comments or suggestions about its adequacy. (My aim would not be to provide a detailed historical account of the Estimates themselves or an evaluation of their validity.)

I would hope to utilize my conclusions in connection with an unclassified study I am doing on the role of the President in managing relations with the U.S.S.R., for whatever light they might shed on the factors influencing Presidential appraisals of the Soviet Union.

If you want any further information, please let me know.

Best regards,

Robert R. Bowie

Mr. Harry Rowen
Chairman
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